

To: Thomas, Hattie[Thomas.Hattie@epa.gov]
From: Washburn, Ben
Sent: Thur 2/13/2014 9:48:12 PM
Subject: OPA Daily Digest 2/13/14

OPA Daily Digest for 2/13/14

Congressional Inquiries:

Sen. Charles Grassley (Iowa): 1/23/14. Requests that EPA respond timely to the Missouri River Public Water Supplies Association, regarding clarification on requirements applicable to water treatment plant discharges. Due: 2/6/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo): 1/23/14. Requests an update on EPA projects in southwest Missouri. Due: 1/30/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo): 1/23/14. Letters of support for Brownfields grant applicants. Due: 2/6/14. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

State and Local Government Inquiries:

Legislative Liaison, Office of the Director (Mo): 2/3/14 – Request review of HB1631. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (open)

Legislative Liaison, Office of the Director (Ne): 2/10/14 – Request additional review of LB852. Contact: Sarah Hatch, 7199 (closed)

Press Inquiries:

Des Moines Register Editorial Board and Staff - 2/12/14: Interviewed the regional administrator and director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources about Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy, the Clean Water Act, renewable fuels standard and a variety of other topics. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Iowa Public Television, Des Moines – David Miller - 2/12/14: Interviewed the regional administrator and Director of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources about Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy and a variety of other topics. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

WHO-TV and Agribusiness Radio Network, Des Moines - Brandon Blue - 2/11/14: Interviewed the regional administrator about Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy and water quality. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

KCIM-FM, Carroll, Iowa - Von Ketelsen - 2/11/14: Interviewed the regional administrator about Iowa's nutrient reduction strategy and water quality. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

High Plains Journal - Ken Root - 2/11/14: Covered two speeches delivered by the regional administrator at the Agribusiness Association of Iowa's annual conference. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Des Moines Register - Matthew Patane - 2/11/14: Covered a speech delivered by the regional administrator at the Agribusiness Association of Iowa's annual conference and conducted an interview. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557 (closed)

Kansas City Star – Luke Renker – 2/5/14: Requests interview with EPA regarding LED street lights. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (open)

Wall Street Journal – John Emshwiller – 2/8/14: Questions about West Lake Landfill Site in Bridgeton, Mo. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (open)

Jefferson County Leader – Tracy Bruce – 2/11/14: Questions about the Big River site. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (closed)

KWQC-TV Ch. 6 – Mark Stevens – 2/11/14: Questions about regulation of above ground storage tanks. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

Environmental Stories:

KMOX Radio St. Louis - Nuns Ask Congress: "Clean-Up Radioactive Waste" - 2/13/14 - Saying the status quo isn't working, a group of nuns wants Congress to authorize a total cleanup of radioactive material at the West Lake Landfill in Bridgeton. <http://stlouis.cbslocal.com/2014/02/13/nuns-ask-congress-clean-up-radioactive-waste/>

Des Moines Register - EPA administrator: Iowa ahead of other states in nutrient reduction strategy - 2/13/14 - Iowa is ahead of other states in the implementation of a nutrient reduction strategy, an Environmental Protection Agency administrator said today. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/02/12/epa-administrator-iowa-ahead-of-other-states-in-nutrient-reduction-strategy>

WHO Ch. 13 Des Moines - Agribusiness: Iowa Leading The Way On Nutrient Management - 2/12/14 - The February thaw hasn't quite happened yet, and as producers look ahead to spring planting, they're also looking ahead at another growing season in which to effectively manage nutrients on and off their farms. <http://whotv.com/2014/02/12/agribusiness-iowa-leading-the-way-on-nutrient-management/>

Des Moines Register - Iowa CCI calls for meeting with EPA regional administrator to discuss Clean Water Act (video – 1 hr, 13 min) - 2/12/14 - Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement, which has called on the state to implement more oversight over livestock producers, sent a letter to EPA Region 7 Administrator Karl Brooks this week asking to meet with him later this year. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/02/12/iowa-cci-calls-for-meeting-with-epa-regional-administrator-to-discuss-clean-water-act/>

Farm Futures - Congressman Wants Grant to Boost Renewable Fuels Infrastructure (+video) - 2/13/14 - Congressman Dave Loebsack, D-Iowa, announced Wednesday the introduction of legislation that would establish a grant program through the USDA to invest in renewable and alternative fuel infrastructure. <http://farmfutures.com/story-congressman-wants-grant-boost-renewable-fuels-infrastructure-0-108684>

Public News Service - Hog Farm Fined for Manure Spill in Tributary of Des Moines River - 2/13/14 - One of the state's largest hog operations is being fined for the spill of manure into a tributary of the Des Moines River. <http://www.publicnewsservice.org/2014-02-13/animal-welfare/hog-farm-fined-for-manure-spill-in-tributary-of-des-moines-river/a37519-1>

Omaha World-Herald - Editorial: Time for a pipeline decision - 2/13/14 - President Obama is running out of reasons for not making a decision on the Keystone XL pipeline. <http://bigredtoday.com/article/20140213/NEWS08/140219527>

Globe-Gazette, Macon City, Iowa - Opinion: Conserving lands, waters in Iowa through the Farm Bill -

2/13/14 - The conservation programs contained in the farm bill are proof that Congress can improve policy, get strong bipartisan support and save scarce federal dollars at the same time. http://globegazette.com/conserving-lands-waters-in-iowa-through-the-farm-bill/article_f5dc1a0f-ef97-5b18-8249-7e5ccede24b54.html

KCCI Ch. 8 Des Moines - Des Moines woman asks to ban wood stoves - 2/12/14 - “Wood smoke is highly toxic to breathe,” Brenda Walker said. “I strongly feel that nobody owns the air, nobody has the right to pollute their neighbors.” <http://www.kcci.com/news/central-iowa/des-moines-woman-asks-to-ban-wood-stoves/24424278>

Lincoln Journal-Star (Neb.) - Landowner group warns of perceived plans to bypass federal permit for Keystone XL - 2/12/14 - A Nebraska landowner advocacy group is warning state legislators and landowners to be aware that TransCanada is offering easement agreements that mention bypassing the need for a presidential permit. http://journalstar.com/news/state-and-regional/federal-politics/landowner-group-warns-of-perceived-plans-to-bypass-federal-permit/article_dedfc27a-fae2-582b-ae15-4f026aec0af8.html

Lake News Online (Mo.) - Sewer district analyzing next step - 2/12/14 - Construction to establish a wastewater treatment system in the Village of Sunrise Beach just got underway in December, but pressing needs in the community and outlying environs are already showing the need for more. <http://www.lakenewsonline.com/article/20140212/News/140219634>

Lake Expo - Local business owner urges city to extend sewer line - 2/12/14 - Sunrise Beach should look at the “big picture” of where it wants to be in 20 years, as the village considers plans for a proposed Phase 2 Sewer project. http://lakeexpo.com/news/business/article_0ef77df0-941c-11e3-8609-001a4bcf887a.html

Creston News-Advertiser (Iowa) - DNR regulations workshop to be held at SWCC - 2/12/14 - A workshop on the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) new regulations for livestock and poultry farms will be held 6:30 to 8 p.m. Feb. 20 at Allied Health and Science Center, Southwestern Community College, Creston. <http://www.crestonnewsadvertiser.com/2014/02/11/dnr-regulations-workshop-to-be-held-at-swcc/an8nvwn/>

Water Online - Disinfectant Byproducts Plague Memphis (Mo.) - 2/12/14 - Memphis, MO has attracted government attention as a result of its struggles with disinfection byproducts. <http://www.wateronline.com/doc/disinfectant-byproducts-plague-memphis-0001>

Des Moines Register - REG starts new division to sell petroleum-based heating oil, diesel fuel - 2/12/14 - Renewable Energy Group said Wednesday it has launched a new division that will sell petroleum-based heating oil and diesel fuel, enabling the Ames-based company to offer more fuel blends to its customers. <http://blogs.desmoinesregister.com/dmr/index.php/2014/02/12/reg-starts-new-division-to-sell-petroleum-based-heating-oil-diesel-fuel/article>

Daily Gate City (Keokuk, Iowa) - Iowa Fertilizer Company asks DNR for emissions change - 2/13/14 - Now that the Iowa Fertilizer Company is being constructed in Wever, the company is asking for more concessions: It asked for more water and now it wants to be able to put more pollutants in the air.

http://www.dailygate.com/news/article_8aac79cd-e252-532c-89c0-55a16c7e466d.html

Decorah Newspapers (Iowa) - Group determined to stop frac-sand mining -- PERIOD - 2/13/14 - A group of concerned residents doesn't think an 18-month moratorium on frac-sand mining goes far enough to protect the citizens of Winneshiek County.

<http://www.decorahnewspapers.com/main.asp?SectionID=2&SubSectionID=13&ArticleID=33120>

Kansas City Business Journal - Honeywell's KC president talks about the big move - 2/13/14 - Chris Gentile, president of Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies LLC, shared a bit of insight on the company's move into a new \$687 million facility at 14520 Botts Road in Kansas City and about its relationship with the federal government. <http://www.bizjournals.com/kansascity/news/2014/02/13/honeywells-kc-president-talks-about.html>

Brownfield Ag News - Strong response to proposed RFS cut - 2/12/14 - The Renewable Fuels Association (RFA) says the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) received nearly 40-thousand "genuine and heartfelt" comments opposing the agency's proposed cuts to the 2014 Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS).

<http://brownfieldagnews.com/2014/02/12/strong-response-proposed-rfs-cut/>

Christian Science Monitor - Scientists achieve nuclear fusion milestone (+video) - 2/12/14 - By blasting hydrogen isotopes with powerful laser pulses, researchers at the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory have vastly increased fuel yield, a new paper reports. <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2014/0212/Scientists-achieve-nuclear-fusion-milestone-video>

Detroit News - EPA has ties to radical environmentalists - 2/12/14 - The latest and most disturbing evidence of this bias against conventional energy comes from a raft of e-mails unearthed as part of a lawsuit against the EPA. These emails document extensive collusion between EPA officials and environmental activists.

<http://www.detroitnews.com/article/20140213/OPINION01/302130005>

Domestic Fuel - Clean Energy for Resilient Communities - 2/13/14 - "Resilient communities need resilient power. Without dependable power, a community can be brought to its knees, and the most vulnerable will suffer the most," was written in a new report. <http://domesticfuel.com/2014/02/13/clean-energy-for-resilient-communities/>

E&E Daily - House Republicans push crowdsourcing on agency science - 2/12/14 - Rep. David

Schweikert (R-Ariz.) and his GOP colleagues are promoting legislation they say will make the agency's science more transparent and accessible to the masses. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2014/02/12/stories/1059994448>

E&E Daily - Industry welcomes Landrieu's ascension - 2/12/14 - The coal industry is welcoming Sen. Mary Landrieu's impending takeover of the chairmanship of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2014/02/12/stories/1059994450>

E&E Daily - Obama not the best of friends with new Energy panel chief -- but does it matter? - 2/13/14 - It's no secret that Sen. Mary Landrieu isn't always on the same page as the White House and her caucus. She also is a staunch advocate for oil and gas drilling. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059994546/>

E&E Daily - Senate approves bill to battle algal blooms - 2/13/14 - The Senate last night approved legislation from a bipartisan group of lawmakers to boost federal efforts against the harmful algae blooms that haunt many of the nation's waters. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059994539/>

E&E Daily - Senators agree that mitigation now will reduce disaster aid later - 2/13/14 - The federal government stands to lose money if it fails to shore up infrastructure to withstand more frequent, extreme storms, members of a Senate panel agreed yesterday. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059994511/>

E&E Daily - Subcommittee stages partisan debate on viability, cost of 'clean coal' - 2/12/14 - Democrats and Republicans yesterday engaged in a partisan tug of war over the commercial viability of carbon capture and sequestration technologies amid U.S. EPA's proposed mandate for new coal-fired power plants. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2014/02/12/stories/1059994455>

E&E Daily - Top Senate Republicans at odds over fate of repository bill - 2/12/14 - Sen. Lamar Alexander (R-Tenn.) said he has high hopes for S. 1240, a measure that would create an independent agency to find locations for new nuclear waste repositories and storage sites. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059994442/>

E&E Daily - Unions call for Senate hearing on plant closures under EPA rules - 2/12/14 - Labor unions are calling on bipartisan leaders of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee to hold a hearing on plant closures under new U.S. EPA clean air rules and potential job losses. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/2014/02/12/stories/1059994446>

E&E News - Clean Air Act debates show how much politics have changed - 2/13/14 - The debate and votes surrounding the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, which gave the federal government more authority to control air pollution, are a stark contrast to the ongoing sharp divisions over dealing with global warming.

<http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1059994544/>

E&E News PM - Congress should act to prevent attacks -- FERC acting chairwoman - 2/12/14 - Congress should consider shielding sensitive information and appointing a federal agency to take emergency action to thwart physical and computer attacks on the grid, the acting chairwoman of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission said yesterday. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059994513/>

E&E News PM - Emissions reductions from bioenergy have many variables -- study - 1/12/14 - The greenhouse gas emissions reductions from bioenergy vary greatly depending on the type of raw material and technology used, according to a study today from the International Council on Clean Transportation. <http://www.eenews.net/eenewspm/stories/1059994506/>

EcoWatch - Interactive Map Shows All 47,000 Wind Turbines in the U.S. - 2/13/14 - As wind energy advocates fight for the renewal of a critical, expired wind energy tax credit and hope for the development of an offshore industry, the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has taken note of the onshore wind turbines installed around the country. <http://ecowatch.com/2014/02/13/interactive-map-47000-wind-turbines-u-s/>

Environmental Health News - New BPA experiment finds no low-dose effects, FDA says - 2/13/14 - A new experiment by scientists at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has found that bisphenol A does not affect the health of rats fed low doses. Other scientists say the study is flawed. <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/news/2014/feb/bpa-low-doses>

Ethanol Producer - RFA: Ethanol supporters send personal, pro-RFS comments to EPA - 2/12/14 - Approximately 40,000 Americans from all walks of life have submitted comments to the U.S. EPA voicing their opposition to the agency's proposed cut to the RFS. Meanwhile, the overwhelming majority of comments supporting cuts to the RFS were generated by citizens who were misled by automated robo-calls sponsored by the American Petroleum Institute. <http://ethanolproducer.com/articles/10749/rfa-ethanol-supporters-send-personal-pro-rfs-comments-to-epa>

GigaOm - A new way to clean (and reuse) the waste water that comes from dirty industries - 2/12/14 - Inexpensive, simple water cleaning tech could enable industries to reuse water over and over for manufacturing, mining and chemical creation. Startup Axine says it has something new. <http://gigaom.com/2014/02/12/a-new-way-to-clean-reuse-the-waste-water-that-comes-from-dirty-industries/>

Greenwire - EPA officials face off with utility regulators on warming rule - 2/12/14 - Two senior U.S. EPA officials yesterday sought to allay regulators' fears about the effect the agency's upcoming existing power plant rule for carbon dioxide could have on electric reliability and supply. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2014/02/12/stories/1059994492>

Greenwire - Planned overhaul would trade highly paid workers for fresh blood - 2/12/14 - EPA recently submitted a trove of proposals to the Office of Personnel Management, laying out -- office by office -- how it plans to cut positions and shrink its workforce. The documents offer a rare glimpse into the agency's long-term plans for cutting positions that have become obsolete. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059994498>

Greenwire - Shake-ups add to climate, energy lineup - 2/12/14 - Dan Utech, President Obama's chief energy and climate adviser, announced this week that he'll have two new deputies as his office plows ahead with the administration's Climate Action Plan. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059994496/>

Greenwire - Sweeping energy review won't include one big thing -- Yucca Mountain - 2/12/14 - Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz today said the long-awaited review of the nation's energy infrastructure will focus on assessing whether networks of aging pipelines and transmission wires can withstand powerful storms like the one currently creeping up the East Coast. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059994490/>

Greenwire - Utilities, enviros team up on future grid challenges - 2/12/14 - A leading environmental organization and the utility industry's largest trade group have joined forces to push for new rate-making approaches that can continue expansion of rooftop solar and other distributed energy while maintaining the viability of electricity providers. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1059994491/>

Huffington Post - Faith Communities Stress Moral Dimension of Carbon Pollution at EPA - 2/12/14 - What drove me and more than fifteen representatives of other faith communities to deliver compelling testimonies at a hearing of the Environmental Protection Agency last week? http://www.huffingtonpost.com/peter-adriance/faith-communities-stress-_b_4769649.html

MeatPoultry.com - The Maschhoffs address 2013 manure spill - 2/13/14 - The Maschhoffs LLC recently entered into a consent agreement with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) regarding repairs and improvements to a manure storage system at one of the company's hog facilities in southeast Iowa. http://www.meatpoultry.com/articles/news_home/Business/2014/02/The_Maschhoffs_address_2013_ma.aspx?ID={63FC3FAE-30FD-49AE-907D-9858408F4CEC}&cck=1

Midwest Energy News - Utilities, environmentalists seek out 'path to success' - 2/13/14 - Utilities are often at odds with environmental advocates over how to advance clean energy and efficiency goals without falling into a "death spiral" of falling demand and shrinking revenue. <http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/02/13/utilities-environmentalists-seek-out-path-to-success/>

National Journal - King Coal Boasts About Keeping Us Warm While Taking a Jab at Natural Gas - 2/12/14 - Coal backers are seizing on electricity price increases spurred by winter weather to make the case that power providers are leaning too heavily on natural gas. <http://www.nationaljournal.com/daily/king-coal-boasts-about-keeping-us-warm-while-taking-a-jab-at-natural-gas-20140212>

NPR - Economist Says Best Climate Fix A Tough Sell, But Worth It - 2/11/14 - We often talk about climate change as a matter of science. But the biggest questions are really about money. How much would it cost to fix the problem — and what price will we pay if we don't? <http://www.npr.org/2014/02/11/271537401/economist-says-best-climate-fix-a-tough-sell-but-worth-it>

NPR - Risky Tech Fixes For Climate Becoming Likelier, Critic Warns (audio) - 2/12/14 - Some big thinkers also see a grim, potentially dangerous world ahead — one where nations, confronting a climate crisis, <http://www.npr.org/2014/02/12/273076988/risky-tech-fixes-for-climate-becoming-likelier-critic-warns>

NRDC (blog) - Attacks on Solar Should Be Rejected. Period. - 2/11/14 - Most of the attacks on solar are motivated by the political supporters of the fossil fuel industry, most likely the billionaire oil baron Koch brothers and the front groups they support. http://switchboard.nrdc.org/blogs/ngreene/attacks_on_solar_should_be_rej.html

Scientific American - DDT, other Environmental Toxins Linked to Late-Onset Alzheimer's Disease - 2/10/14 - Scientists suspect that, along with genetic factors, toxins and pollutants may increase the risk of developing this debilitating disorder. <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/studies-link-ddt-other-environmental-toxins-to-late-onset-alzheimers-disease/>

The Hill - Grassley/Cantwell: Don't go backward on biofuels - 2/12/14 - We are asking the EPA to help rev America's economic engine. Giving the green light to RFS statutory targets would jump-start even more innovation, efficiency, investment and productivity already in the pipeline. Let's prime America's pump. <http://thehill.com/opinion/op-ed/198268-dont-go-backward-on-biofuels>

Triple Pundit - Obama, McCarthy Reaffirm Government's Commitment to Environmental Justice - 2/13/14 - Reaffirming the federal government's commitment to environmental justice is not only much needed, but should be very welcome coming as it does in the wake of a coal industry chemical spill and the third-largest coal ash spill in U.S. history. <http://www.triplepundit.com/2014/02/obama-mccarthy-reaffirm-governments-commitment-environmental-justice/>

Washington Free Beacon - Environmental Activists Plan Illegal White House Demonstration - 2/13/14 - A group of anti-Keystone pipeline protesters is telling its members to prepare for mass arrests as they illegally shut down intersections in Washington, D.C., on their way to the White House. <http://freebeacon.com/environmental-activists-plan-illegal-white-house-demonstration/>

Washington Post - New head of Senate Energy Committee has environmentalists seeing red - 2/12/14 - Sen. Mary Landrieu (D-La.) will bring a sharply different outlook to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee now that she has taken the gavel from Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.), who has moved over to chair the Senate Finance Committee. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/the-fix/wp/2014/02/12/as-energy-panel-chair-landrieu-marks-a-major-shift-from-wyden/>

Yale Environment 360 - Despite Costs, Most Americans Want Action on Climate Change, Report Finds - 2/12/14 - A large majority of Americans — 83 percent — say the U.S. should make an effort to reduce global warming, even if those efforts have economic costs, according to a new report from the Yale Project on Climate Change Communication. http://e360.yale.edu/digest/despite_costs_most_americans_want_action_on_climate_change_report_finds/4074/

BNR - Farm Bill Provides \$150 Million for Small Systems - 2/12/14 - Small and rural water and wastewater utilities will receive \$150 million for drinking water and wastewater infrastructure under the newly enacted farm bill. The money will be distributed through loans by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Rural Utilities Service. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=41694219&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e6n8c1e4&split=0

BNR - Biological Agent Decontamination Study Released - 2/12/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency has released the results of a multiyear study, the Bio-Response Operational Testing and Evaluation Project, of decontamination techniques to be used in the event of a large-scale biological agent attack. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=41694205&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e6n7w3p6&split=0

BNR - General Counsel Defends Settlements By EPA, Says Criticism Based on Rhetoric - 2/12/14 - The Environmental Protection Agency general counsel is defending the agency's practice of settling lawsuits, saying critics' arguments are based on rhetoric. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=41694203&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e6n7u4z3&split=0

BNR - NRDC, Utility Group Urge Grid Payments, New Rate Structure for Rooftop Solar Users - 2/12/14 - The Natural Resources Defense Council and a utility industry trade group are jointly calling for a new rate structure to account for customers that generate their own power with rooftop solar systems. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=41694208&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e6n7z5r5&split=0

BNR - Loeb sack Bill Would Establish Grants For Renewable, Alternative Fuel Projects - 2/12/14 - Rep. Dave Loebsack (D-Iowa) introduced a bill Feb. 12 that would establish a grant program to fund renewable and alternative fuel infrastructure projects. http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=41694197&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e6n7n8y4&split=0

BN - Utilities Must Understand Challenges Leading to More Rules, Researcher Says - 2/12/14 - Drinking water utilities must understand upcoming challenges to providing safe water and adapt because many of these challenges may evolve into regulatory requirements, a water researcher said.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=41694185&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e6m2c3w3&split=0

BN - DHS to Include Critical Infrastructure In Program for Disaster-Resilient Homes - 2/12/14 - The Department of Homeland Security plans to extend its new voluntary program for encouraging disaster-resilient homes to include critical infrastructure, a DHS official said Feb. 12.

http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=41694202&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0e6n7u1u3&split=0

Inside EPA - DOJ Seeking To Identify Circuit Split In Bid For High Court NSR Review - 2/13/14 - The Department of Justice (DOJ) is actively reviewing appellate rulings on Clean Air Act new source review (NSR) enforcement in an effort to identify a case showing a "clear" enough circuit split to merit Supreme Court review, a top DOJ official says. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-02/14/2014/doj-seeking-to-identify-circuit-split-in-bid-for-high-court-nsr-review/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Sees Key Role For Regional Electricity Groups In Utility Climate Rule - 2/13/14 - EPA and federal energy regulators are suggesting that the agency's first-time greenhouse gas (GHG) rule for existing power plants could give transmission groups a key role in developing regional compliance plans in an effort to ensure the regulations will not harm grid reliability or raise electricity prices. <http://insideepa.com/201402132461100/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-sees-key-role-for-regional-electricity-groups-in-utility-climate-rule/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Water Utilities Issue Cybersecurity Tool In Concert With Obama Guidance - 2/13/14 - The water utility industry -- the only critical infrastructure sector for which EPA has cybersecurity authority -- has released guidance on how the sector's managers and operators can reduce the invulnerability to cybersecurity attacks. <http://insideepa.com/201402132461099/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/water-utilities-issue-cybersecurity-tool-in-concert-with-obama-guidance/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Policymakers Eye GHG Targets Beyond 2020, Signaling Deeper Carbon Cuts - 2/13/14 - Federal and state policymakers are considering setting new targets and timetables -- and likely new regulatory requirements -- for reducing carbon emissions beyond 2020. <http://insideepa.com/201402122461018/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/policymakers-eye-ghg-targets-beyond-2020-signaling-deeper-carbon-cuts/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Targets Major Headquarters Program Offices In Staff Buyout Packages - 2/13/14 - EPA is targeting key headquarters program office positions in its push for staff buyouts that could save millions of dollars due to shrinking budgets, offering buyout packages in the toxics, water, enforcement and other offices that could exacerbate union officials' fear that the buyout will hinder EPA's ability to enforce environmental laws.

<http://insideepa.com/201402132461149/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/epa-targets-major-headquarters-program-offices-in-staff-buyout-packages/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - EPA Eyes Retaining Stricter 'Interference' Test For Next Air Transport Rule - 2/13/14 - As EPA crafts its next air transport rule it is leaning toward retaining a strict test for calculating whether upwind states' emissions "interfere" with downwind states' ability to maintain federal air standards. <http://insideepa.com/Inside-EPA/Inside-EPA-02/14/2014/epa-eyes-retaining-stricter-interference-test-for-next-air-transport-rule/menu-id-67.html>

Inside EPA - States See Varied Effects From EPA Tanks Funding Cuts, Allocation Changes - 2/13/14 - The funding cut to EPA's leaking underground storage tank (LUST) trust fund program contained in the recently enacted fiscal year 2014 omnibus appropriations bill will likely have varying effects on states' UST cleanups and leak prevention efforts. <http://insideepa.com/201402132461146/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/states-see-varied-effects-from-epa-tanks-funding-cuts-allocation-changes/menu-id-95.html>

Inside EPA - Critics Push Back Against EPA Plans For 'Next Generation' Enforcement - 2/13/14 - EPA's plan for a "next generation" compliance initiative that would focus more on data reporting than field inspections to guide enforcement priorities is prompting push-back from advocates who say it will allow polluters to escape penalties. <http://insideepa.com/201402132461145/EPA-Daily-News/Daily-News/critics-push-back-against-epa-plans-for-next-generation-enforcement/menu-id-95.html>

Press Releases:

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

Fact Sheets:

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:

* New additions noted with an asterisk

2/19/14 – Missouri Water Meeting, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Glenn Curtis, 7726

2/20/14 – Air & Waste Management Association Mid-West Chapter Annual Conference, Overland Park, Kan., Becky Weber, 7487

2/26/14 – Black History Month Program – Introduce Guest Speaker, Regional Office. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

3/8/14 – Sierra Club 40th Anniversary Conference, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

3/18-19/14 – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

3/31/14 – Madison and Lila Self Graduate Spring Symposium, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

4/3/14 – Mid-American Environmental Compliance Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Dave Cozad, 7587

4/22/14 – Sprint WasteWise Event, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

DRA:

2/20/14 – RTOC, Regional Office. Contact: Wolfgang Brandner, 7381

3/4/14 – Executive Management Council, Washington DC. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

3/18-19/14 – RA/DRA Joint Meeting, Denver, Colo., Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

RA/Immediate Office

None

Other Events

AWMD

None

CNSL

None

ECO/EJ

***2/18 – 21/14** – Public Affairs Directors Meeting, Washington, DC. Contact: Hattie Thomas, 7762

2/24/14 – West Lake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo., Contact: Karim Dawani, 7289

***3/13/2014** – EJ Small Grants Community Tour, Press Event and Stakeholder Roundtable, Wichita, Kan. Contact: Corazzin, 7429

ENSV

None

PLMG

2/19/14 – Liberty High School speaking engagement, Liberty, Mo. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

RA/OPA

2/24/14 - Westlake Landfill CAG Meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

2/25-26/14 – Conduct community interviews for the Westlake Landfill site, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

SUPR

***2/18/14** – Area Maritime Security Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Williams, 7625

***3/3/14** – Emergency planning meeting with local response agencies and the Johnson County Environmental and Health Department, Olathe, Kan. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

***3/6/14** – Kansas Commission on Emergency Planning and Response meeting, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

***3/18-19/14** - National Response Team/Regional Response Team Co-Chairs meeting, Atlanta, Ga. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

***4/1-2/14** - Hosting spring Regional Response Team meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Scott Hayes, 7670

WWPD

3/11-14/14 – Water Quality Standards National Program Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contacts: John DeLashmit, 7821, Ann Lavaty, 7370